



Hermantown Police Department
5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN 55811
218.729.1200 // cops@hermantownmn.com

AROUND TOWN

During the week of 02/13/22 to 02/19/22, the Hermantown PD had 166 calls.
The following are selected incidents HPD responded to this week.

Chief

Jim Crace

Commanders

Mark Gunderson
Jon Esterbrooks

Sergeants

Griffin Pfeiffer - K9
Jon Pernu - K9

Detective

Jake Williams
Jeff Dwyer

Officers

Jason Salo
Lisa Volk
Tim Battaglia
Jon Enright
Erika Johnson - SRO
Quinn Mischke
Olivia Gottschald
Jonathan Stracek
Andrew Leibel

K-9 Officers

Tuuko
Jack

Records

Jessica Sorensen
Dana Ross
Samantha Knapp

Disturbance

On 02/15/22 at 10:22 p.m., Walmart reported a female in the store that had previously been trespassed. When confronted by loss prevention, the woman denied being trespassed and continued out to a vehicle. The woman had also been mailed citations on 02/10/22 for two other trespassing violations on 02/06/22 and 02/08/22. Officer Gottschald located the vehicle on Loberg Avenue and performed a traffic stop, making contact with the female passenger. The 39-year-old said that she was "high" and didn't remember signing the trespass notice at Walmart on 02/03/22, but admitted that it was her signature. She then stated she "took her change" tonight by going to Walmart. She then attempted to tell officers that it was her sister that was caught shoplifting two weeks prior and that her sister used her name, but after Officer Stracek showed her photos of herself in the loss prevention office, she admitted it was her. She was cited for trespassing.

Shortly before 7:30 p.m. on 02/16/22, an Almquist Road resident reported hearing several shots down the road from her driveway. She said she went to the end of her driveway and observed what appeared to be the muzzle flash from a gun being fired from a car. She said the shots were directed into the wooded area on the west side of Almquist Road and Officer Mischke located 14 spent 9mm shell casings in the middle of Almquist Road approximately 150 yards from the reporting party's driveway. She was able to provide the license plate number of the suspect vehicle, a Toyota Corolla, but officers were unable to locate the vehicle at that time. The Duluth Police Department also responded to three 911 reports of shots fired overnight. The first occurred near 96th Avenue West and officers later located eleven 9mm shell casings. Another caller reported hearing shots in the area of Becks Road and 108th Avenue West. At 12:53 a.m. on 02/17/22, Duluth officers received the report of shots in the area of 11th Street and 23rd Avenue West. A Duluth office arrived in the area and located a Toyota Corolla matching the description and license plate of the suspect vehicle in the Almquist Road incident. Two males were seen exiting the vehicle and entering a residence before one came back outside and met with officers. This man was identified as the 22-year-old registered owner of the vehicle. When interviewed about the incidents, the man said "nothing happened" and claimed he did not know why he was at the Hermantown Police Department being interviewed. He denied involvement with a firearm being discharged, but admitted he had been in his car "earlier" that night and told Detective Dwyer that no one else used or had access to his vehicle. When asked if there was anything in his car relating to firearms and ammunition, he said no. A search warrant was later executed on the vehicle and many items were collected, including boxes of ammunition, rounds of ammunition located throughout the vehicle, ear plugs, and an extended handgun magazine. The man was lodged at the St. Louis County Jail on charges of reckless discharge of a firearm within a municipality.

Driving Under the Influence

At 11:55 p.m. on 02/13/22, Officer Stracek observed a Silverado speeding on Stebner Road despite the road conditions being snow-covered and icy. He performed a traffic stop and made contact with the 25-year-old driver, who stated she was headed home from a local bar, where she had two beers. The woman's preliminary breath test registered a reading of .097% blood alcohol content. She was issued a citation for 4th degree DWI, .08 or more, and speeding.



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On 02/19/22, just before 11 p.m., Officer Gottschald performed a traffic stop on a vehicle displaying expired tabs. The 37-year-old driver had bloodshot, glossy eyes and the strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from his breath. In addition, he was slurring his speech while speaking with Officer Gottschald. He performed field sobriety testing and submitted to a preliminary breath test that resulted in a reading of .185% blood alcohol content. Reports were forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for charges of 3rd degree DWI and .08 or more.

Alcohol Violations

On 02/18/22, School Resource Officer Johnson was at the high school Sweetheart Dance when she was advised by a chaperone that they smelled alcohol coming from two students as they were speaking. Officer Johnson made contact with the students, who were chewing gum and initially stated that they used mouthwash prior to coming to the school. Both submitted to preliminary breath tests. The 17-year-old female had a reading of .091% blood alcohol content and admitted to having a shot of vodka and sharing a bottle of something similar to a Smirnoff beverage with friends. The 18-year-old male's preliminary breath test showed .118% blood alcohol content. He stated he had been sipping on Captain Morgan mixed with Coke. The students' parents were notified of the incident. Both were cited for underage consumption.

Order Violation

On the afternoon of 02/17/22, a 36-year-old woman reported that she had received two phone calls in violation of a harassment order. She stated the first call came from her ex's phone number and she did not answer it. The second call, one minute later, came from a number she did not recognize, so she answered. She recognized the man's voice and said that he asked about seeing their kids. She explained that he has been trying to set up visitation with them through a visitation center and she believed this is what he was asking about. This incident is under investigation.

Traffic

On 02/13/22 at 8:43 p.m., Officer Stracek performed a traffic stop on a vehicle with a burnt out brake light. He made contact with the 63-year-old male driver and recognized him as someone he had previously had contact with. During a check of the man's name, Officer Stracek noted that the man had a cancelled driving status. The license plates were removed from the vehicle and a notice of license plate impoundment was provided to the driver. Reports have been sent to the prosecuting attorney for charges of gross misdemeanor driving after cancellation – inimical to public safety.

Theft

On the morning of 02/15/22, several residents of the Aery Apartments reported that their vehicles had been broken into overnight. The suspect or suspects had broken windows to gain entry into the vehicles. One vehicle had several tools taken. In another incident, the victim had two credit cards stolen. One of the cards had been used as Cub Foods for over \$200. The other card had been tried at Target and Maytag Laundry, but the transactions were declined because the victim had been able to cancel her card. These incidents are under investigation.